

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 3, line 11, delete "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION";

line 22, insert -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- The terminal interface 702-i (i = 1 to 7n) for an input line has a service ID adder 720, a buffer memory 721, a path controller 722, a service ID table 723, a routing tag table 724, and the other elements. In the service ID table 723, in correspondence with a source address and a destination address to be included in the header of input packets, service ID given as internal control information from the processor 710 is stored. In the routing tag table 724, in correspondence with the service ID given as internal control information from the processor 710, the bandwidth, path ID, and routing tag information given as internal control information from the processor 710 are stored. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, lines 15 and 16, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- In the second embodiment of the invention, a combination of a plurality of communication services offered by different telecommunication companies is shared by a plurality of users. When communication service of the telecommunication company "c" indicated by the entry 102b-102c and communication service of the

telecommunication company "d" shown in the entry 102e-102d in FIG. 4 are combined, for example, a communication path of total 5 Mbps is available in the area between Tokyo and Osaka. Therefore, when communication service requests of 4 Mbps and 1 Mbps (total 5 Mbps) are issued from the users B and C in the area between Tokyo and Osaka as shown by entries 103b and 103c in FIG. 5, if the users B and C agree to share the communication paths of the telecommunication companies "b" and "c", the bandwidths required by the users B and C are assured. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph as follows:

-- For example, as shown by an entry 104d-103d in FIG. 6FIG. 5, when the user D desires communication service of the bandwidth of 1 Mbps in the term from Sept. 1st, 2001 to Aug. 31st, 2003 and the request of the user is satisfied by combining communication services of the telecommunication companies "e" and "f" as shown by entries 102e and 102f in FIG. 4, the assistant server generates the network control information indicated by entries 104d and 104D shown in FIG. 6. In this case, the user D performs communication with the branch office by using the communication network of the telecommunication company "e" in the term from Sept. 1st, 2001 to Aug. 31st, 2002 and using the communication network of the telecommunication company "f" in the term from Sept. 1st, 2002 to Aug. 31st, 2003. --